

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ITF - MR. PENNER:MFG

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EA - MR. MILLER (PHONE)

S/S-O: P;HANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090626

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CPRS, EAIR, PINR, PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: FLYING TIGER PULL OUT

1. FLYING TIGER VICE PRESIDENT WAYNE PARTRIDGE JUST INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT DUE TO IMMINENT POSSIBILITY OF NVN DEPLOYMENT OF HEAT SEEKING MISSILES IN THE VICINITY OF TAN SON NHUT, THE COMPANY INTENDS TO CEASE OPERATIONS OUT OF SAIGON. A FINAL FLIGHT NOW UNDER WAY WILL BE MADE TO EVACUATE SOME 100 VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY. PARTRIDGE MADE IT CLEAR THAT GVN OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INFORMED OF THIS INTENDED EVACUATION AND WARNED OF DISASTER RESULT SHOULD WORDLEAK OUT.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH PARTRIDGE, DEPTOFF STRONGLY REQUESTED FLYING TIGER TO RECONSIDER OR AT LEAST POSTPONE THE OPERATION, WARNING OF THE SERIOUS AND UNFORTUNATE IMPACT SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD CAUSE IN SAIGON AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IN RESETTLE-
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MENT OF UNDOCUMENTED VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER,

FLYING TIGER INDICATED THAT IT INTENDED TO PROCEED WITH THE PULL OUT LACKING ASSURANCES FOR THE SAFETY OF ITS PERSONNEL.

3. IN VIEW OF NEW REPORTS OF ENEMY THREAT TO AIR TRAFFIC IN TAN SON NHUT FAA HAS AGAIN URGED DEPT. TO PERMIT IT TO ISSUE NOTICE BANNING SCHEDULED SERVICES TO SAIGON. THIS WOULD NOT APPLY TO CHARTERS SUCH AS THAT CONTEMPORATED FOR APRIL 21 (STATE 90585) BUT WOULD APPLY TO SCHEDULED PAA APRIL 22 FLIGHT.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT RPT. NOT INFORM GVN OF FLYING TIGER'S PLANNED EVACUATION OF VN EMPLOYEES. REQUEST EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON: (A) ENEMY THREAT TO AIR TRAFFIC AT TAN SON NHUT; (B) PROBABLE IMPACT OF FLYING TIGER BUG-OUT AND FAA NOTICE ON SITUATION IN SAIGON; (C) POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO PERSUADE FLYING TIGER TO DELAY ITS FINAL FLIGHT OR TO REMOVE VN EMPLOYEES FROM IT. KISSINGER

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To: SAIGON
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